

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6814

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 2506

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, MX

SUBJECT: FURTHER AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT TO PRESS RE ALLEGED
CIA INVOLVEMENT

1. TODAY WHEN LEAVING CONGRESSIONAL SESSION IN HONOR OF VISITING VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ, I WAS ACCOSTED BY PRESS AND TELEVISION PEOPLE WHO WERE INQUIRING ABOUT WIRE SERVICE REPORT (UPI) FROM WASHINGTON THAT STATE DEPARTMENT HAD PROTESTED TO DE OLLOQUI REGARDING GOM ALLEGATION OF CIA INVOLVEMENT.

2. I REPLIED MORE OR LESS AS FOLLOWS: I HAD NOT SEEN THE WIRE SERVICE REPORT AND HENCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO COMMENT. I PRESUMED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD DONE MORE OR LESS WHAT I MYSELF HAD DONE TWO DAYS BEFORE WHEN REPLYING TO PRESS QUERIES, AND STATED THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTERVENTION BY ANY AGENCIES OF THE US GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE ONE MENTIONED, IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MEXICO AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE LAMENTABLE OCCURANCE WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE AT THE GLORIOUS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO. WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER THERE HAD INDEED BEEN A PROTEST (WAS THIS NOT THE FIRST TIME IN A GENERATION THAT THE USG HAD ACTUALLY PROTESTED TO MEXICO) I REPLIED THAT BETWEEN TWO TRADITIONALLY
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FRIENDLY, GOVERNMENTS, WHO WERE MOREOVER NEIGHBORS, THERE

WAS A CONSTANT FLOW OF EXCHANGES THROUGH THEIR
RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES. THE PURPOSE WAS TO MAKE CLEAR
RESPECTIVE POINTS OF VIEW; TO FURTHER NATIONAL INTERESTS
AND TO CLARIFY MISUNDERSTANDINGS. ACCORDINGLY, I WOULD
LABEL ANY PRESENT EXCHANGES AS BEING IN THE NATURE OF
REPRESENTATIONS OR CLARIFYING EXCHANGES BETWEEN TWO
FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS. WHEN QUESTIONED
AS TO MY OPINION OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY A "HIGH
RANKING MEXICAN FUNCTIONARY" (I.E. RABASA) TO THE EFFECT
THAT ONE MUST PRESUME THAT THE CIA IS ACTIVE IN EACH OF THE
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES UNTIL PROVEN OTHERWISE, I REPLIED
THAT IT WOULD BE UNBECOMING FOR A FOREIGN AMBASSADOR TO CONTRADICT
PUBLICLY A HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL. I COULD SAY, HOWEVER,
THAT OUR OWN JURIDICAL TRADITION IS
DIFFERENT IN THAT WE CONSIDER ONE INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN
GUILTY.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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